

Hohman named state court administrator in Lansing

■ The Monroe County probate judge will oversee operations of the state's court system.

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Monroe County Chief Probate Judge John A. Hohman Jr. has been named state court administrator, a position that oversees the entire Michigan court system.

Judge Hohman, who served in Monroe County Probate and Family Court for 16 years, was appointed by the seven-member Michigan Supreme Court. The post is the highest-known level achieved in the state by a Monroe County judge.

"I'm really, really excited," Judge Hohman said after the Supreme Court made the announcement Wednesday afternoon. "The sad part is leaving Monroe, my friends and colleagues as well as the families we serve."

Judge Hohman's last day will be Nov. 15 before he moves to

Lansing to begin his new position as the newest administrator.

Gov. Rick Snyder then will appoint his replacement, who might have to run in 2014 to keep the seat for the remainder of Judge Hohman's term that expires in 2018.

Chief Justice Robert P. Young Jr. said that Judge Hohman was selected based on his leadership, background and extensive contributions at the state level. He has served on many committees, was president of the Michigan Probate Judges Association and served as chairman of the Michigan Bar Judicial Council.

"Judge Hohman brings to his new position his experience as a probate and family division judge in Monroe County and his extensive contributions in court administration," Justice Young said in a statement. "He has been deeply involved in



JUDGE JOHN
A. HOHMAN

► Foster care group honors Hohman — Page 3A

plans for improving our justice system."

News of the appointment spread through the courthouse and colleagues were quick to wish Judge Hohman the best.

"I am very happy for Judge Hohman and his wife, Annemarie, on this great appointment and I share in the pride of my fellow jurists statewide," said Probate Judge Frank L. Arnold. "Judge Hohman is most fitting for this position given his history on the bench."

Judge Arnold said that while the general public might not be aware of the significance of the state court administrator's office, he called the SCAO the driving force in standardizing and regulating procedure statewide that ultimately affects the public good.

Chief Circuit Judge Michael W. LaBeau said he was thrilled for Judge Hohman but sad to see

See **HOHMAN**, Page 9A

Hohman (cont.)

him leave.

"Judge Hohman is a great friend and colleague and he has been wonderful to work with," Judge LaBeau said. "He's an excellent judge and he's going to do a great job as the state court administrator. It is going to be a great loss but I wish him the best of luck."

Judge Hohman, who has been on the bench since 1997, is noted for his work in juvenile justice and child welfare. He and retired Probate Judge Pamela A. Moskwa co-founded Monroe County's Court Appointed Special Advocates program to improve representation for children in abuse and neglect cases.

His efforts included a redesign of Monroe County's juvenile programs and family court, as well as the creation of a juvenile drug court.

He helped found Project Second Chance, in which young offenders train and care for dogs from the Monroe County Animal Shelter, a program

that teaches juveniles empathy and responsibility while increasing the dogs' chances for adoption.

Judge Hohman was appointed to succeed State Court Administrator Chad C. Schmucker, who has accepted another position in Nevada.

Judge Hohman said he is looking forward to the new challenges of the state post.

"I am grateful and honored to have been selected by the supreme court to be part of the SCAO team," he said. "The people of this organization are truly dedicated in their efforts to improve the administration of justice in Michigan."

Judge Hohman, a 1974 Monroe High School graduate, earned a bachelor of science degree from Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, and his law degree from Wayne State University Law School, Detroit.

He was in the private practice of law for 16 years before becoming a judge. He and his wife, Annemarie, have five children.